

m.v. light at several mountain sites in north and west Gwent, including the opposite side of the original mountain, with no sign of *E. imbecilla*, and he knows of no-one else who has found it outside the original small locality. However, Martin is not in the habit of running his light all night and the largest number of *E. imbecilla* he has seen in a night is eight, so it is entirely possible that it could be present but so far undetected at sites he has already worked.

Although I have corresponded with and spoken to a number of lepidopterists who have sought *E. imbecilla*, and sometimes found it, they are unable to add any additional localities for the moth. I would be most grateful to be informed of the outcome of any other past or future searches, whether positive or negative, at the known site or elsewhere and remain hopeful that the moth will be found even more widely than I demonstrated in 1995. I suspect that the moth was searched for at other sites, following the report of its discovery in Britain, but Bernard Skinner (*pers. comm.*) informs me that searches were limited because the original site soon became known on the lepidopterists' grape-vine. De Worms (1978, *Ent. Rec.* **90**: 77-78 & 134) indicates that during searches in 1977 the moth was found over a large area of ground but nowhere away from the original locality and Horton, as Lepidoptera recorder for Monmouthshire, was of the same opinion in 1993. – PAUL WARING, 1366 Lincoln Road, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6LS.

### **Unusual numbers of the Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* L. (Lep.: Satyridae) in South Lincolnshire**

The Speckled Wood occurs commonly each year in the woods of South Kesteven which I have visited yearly since my retirement here some years ago but I was quite unprepared to see the massive population explosion of the species when I visited an area of woodland at Grimsthorpe Park near Bourne, on 24 August 1995 for a family outing. This butterfly was flying in numbers which neither I, nor my son, Nicholas, had ever seen before in any other part of the United Kingdom over many years. There were hundreds flying in the dappled shade along a main path and we counted at least 13 settled and flying a few yards in front of us. Indeed, the effect was more like a tropical forest clearing than in England. This picture continued all the way along the 500 yards of main path, and as there were a number of clearings and minor paths in this quite extensive woodland the numbers on that day must have been phenomenal. I should add that the spring brood hereabouts was unexceptional.

It would be interesting to learn whether any other observers have noted such an unusual population explosion of this species in our abnormally hot summer of 1995. – D.S. BURROWS, "Witham Cottage", School Lane, Boothby Pagnell, Grantham, Lincolnshire NG33 4DL.